



September 10, 2012

Dear Tax Assessor-Collector:

A complete falsehood regarding the TxDMV taking over the titling and registration of vehicles got started and spread last week. I personally made all of you a promise at the inception of the TxDMV that we would be candid and transparent with you. I thought we owed you more detail on how this rumor got started.

At a Pre-Legislative Conference of the Texas Association of Counties that was held August 29-31 in Austin Jim Allison, the General Counsel for the County Judges and Commissioners Association, was asked a question by a County Judge regarding a rumor that he had heard. Had Jim heard that the legislature was going to consider a proposal to transfer the authority to the TxDMV to directly handle the title and registration process? Mr. Allison replied that the staff of a key legislative leader had asked him if the counties would object to the state handling the title and registration work directly. The theory behind this question was that the state could raise more money if the TxDMV did this work by cutting out the commissions paid to the counties. Mr. Allison told his audience that he had assured these staff members that the counties would most certainly object. Mr. Allison went on to say to the audience that revenue-generating ideas like this one were common before every session and most likely would not materialize. At no time did Mr. Allison state that the TxDMV was pitching this idea.

Unfortunately this question and answer was turned into the TxDMV takeover threat that spread rapidly before either the department or I even knew it existed. After I was alerted last week to the rumor I called Mr. Allison and received the explanation that I have described to you. The department issued a statement today denying any such action. The department reaffirmed its commitment to its ongoing partnership with the tax assessor-collectors.

The titling and registration of vehicles in Texas is the largest service that the TxDMV supports. Our largest client group in terms of transactions handled and revenue generated is the 254 Tax Assessor-Collectors. You are our partners and the direct interface to the vehicle owners of Texas. We have actually been working to support more business running through the counties rather than trying to take away business or revenue from the counties. The leadership of your association knows this firsthand and is supportive of our ongoing efforts in this regard.

There is no doubt that there will be many positive changes occurring in our business relationship over the next few years. The Tax Assessor-Collectors and the TxDMV will surely accelerate the implementation of the best business practices in titling and registration. We have mutually identified the future state of this business as being critical to accomplish together. The automation projects that are being planned and let out to the market now and in the future as necessary to support these best business practices will follow. There is little doubt that our relationship will evolve for the better.

Sincerely,

Victor Vandergriff
Chairman of the Board